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whole island was 38.18, and the average birth rates was 33.5 for Port Louis and 36.05 for the whole island.

Notwithstanding the enormous disparity of deaths over births, the population of Mauritius steadily increases by reason of the annual immigration of Indians under the contract labor system employed by the sugar estate managers. Once here the Asiatic prefers to remain after his term or contract expires.

	Plague.		Plague.
1901.....	812	1904.....	456
1902.....	390	1905.....	249
1903.....	1,026	1906.....	(a)

a Not obtainable at present.

Beriberi.—This disease appeared amongst the convicts at Beau Bassin prison about the 1st of March, 1907, and created great alarm throughout the island, but the health officials soon had the disease under complete control. They assumed that the cases of beriberi were caused by the daily ration of Saigon rice, which only recently the authorities had been furnishing to the prisoners in lieu of Indian rice as formerly. Wholesome wheat bread was substituted and the use of Saigon rice strictly forbidden at the prison. The result was a quick disappearance of the malady.

MEXICO.

Report from Progreso—Sanitary conditions—Inspection of vessels—Mosquitoes not frequent on vessels.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Harrison reports, April 15:

Week ended April 14, 1907. No quarantineable disease has appeared here or in Merida, but in the latter city 3 or 4 cases were reported under observation as yellow-fever suspects. Weather continues hot and dry, there not having been any rain here within the past three months. Mosquitoes are numerous ashore, but owing to an almost continuous wind from the water are seldom seen aboard ships, even at the wharves.

During the week 4 steamships and 1 sailing vessel were cleared for the United States, with crews 234 and passengers 66, including 7 to the United States; of these vessels 2 were fumigated.

As in past seasons, living quarters only are fumigated and the hatches sealed, unless the master insists on fumigation of holds.

I inspect all persons leaving shore to join the ships, but do not inspect either ship or people in transit, unless the ship comes to wharf or sails direct for the United States.

Report from Veracruz—Smallpox.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Frick reports, April 18:

Two cases of smallpox were officially reported yesterday. One case in Medillin, 15 kilometers from Veracruz, on the Alvarado Railroad.